



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6624

LCO No. 3899

03899_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) There shall be a Board of Pardons and Paroles within the
5 Department of Correction, for administrative purposes only. On and
6 after February 1, 2008, and prior to July 1, 2008, the board shall consist
7 of not more than twenty-five members appointed by the Governor. On
8 and after July 1, [2008] 2009, the board shall consist of [eighteen]
9 twenty members. On and after February 1, 2008, the Governor shall
10 appoint all members of the board with the advice and consent of both
11 houses of the General Assembly. On and after July 1, [2008] 2009,
12 twelve of the members shall serve exclusively on parole release panels,
13 [five] seven of the members shall serve exclusively on pardons panels
14 and the chairperson may serve on both parole release panels and
15 pardons panels. In the appointment of members on and after February
16 1, 2008, the Governor shall specify the member being appointed as

17 chairperson, the full-time and part-time members being appointed to
18 serve on parole release panels and the members being appointed to
19 serve on pardons panels. In the appointment of the members, the
20 Governor shall comply with the provisions of section 4-9b. The
21 Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among the membership.
22 The members of the board appointed on or after February 1, 2008, shall
23 be qualified by education, experience or training in the administration
24 of community corrections, parole or pardons, criminal justice,
25 criminology, the evaluation or supervision of offenders or the
26 provision of mental health services to offenders. Each appointment of a
27 member of the board submitted by the Governor to the General
28 Assembly on or after February 1, 2008, shall be referred, without
29 debate, to the committee on the judiciary which shall report thereon
30 not later than thirty legislative days after the date of reference.

31 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
33 *passage*):

34 (e) Of the members appointed prior to February 1, 2008, the
35 chairperson shall assign seven members exclusively to parole release
36 hearings and shall assign five members exclusively to pardons
37 hearings. Except for the chairperson, no member assigned to parole
38 release hearings may be assigned subsequently to pardons hearings
39 and no member assigned to pardons hearings may be assigned
40 subsequently to parole release hearings. Prior to July 1, 2008, each
41 parole release panel shall be composed of two members from among
42 the members assigned by the chairperson exclusively to parole release
43 hearings or the members appointed by the Governor on or after
44 February 1, 2008, to serve exclusively on parole release panels, and the
45 chairperson or a member designated to serve temporarily as
46 chairperson, for each correctional institution. On and after July 1,
47 [2008] 2009, each parole release panel shall be composed of two
48 members appointed by the Governor on or after February 1, 2008, to
49 serve on parole release panels, [at least one of whom is a full-time

50 member,] and the chairperson or a full-time member designated to
51 serve temporarily as chairperson, for each correctional institution.
52 Such parole release panels shall be the paroling authority for the
53 institutions to which they are assigned and not less than two members
54 shall be present at each parole hearing. Each pardons panel shall be
55 composed of three members from among the members assigned by the
56 chairperson exclusively to pardons hearings or the members appointed
57 by the Governor on or after February 1, 2008, to serve on pardons
58 panels, one of whom may be the chairperson, except that for hearings
59 on commutations from the penalty of death, one member of the panel
60 shall be the chairperson.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	54-124a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	54-124a(e)

Statement of Purpose:

To allow more parole release hearings and pardons hearings to be conducted by the Board of Pardons and Paroles by increasing the number of part-time members who serve exclusively on pardons panels and permitting a parole release panel to be composed of two part-time members and the chairperson or a full-time member serving as chairperson.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]